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The Spectator

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Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

College takes immediate action to combat norovirus outbreak, at least 54 students affected

by Will Kaback '20
Editor-in-Chief

Just as the first signs of spring were beginning to draw the campus out of hibernation, a debilitating norovirus outbreak has emerged with a vengeance and affected nearly all aspects of daily life on the Hill.

The first official indication of a potential health issue on campus came on Monday, April 23, when Associate Dean of Students for Health and Safety Jeff Landry emailed the community about reports of "an increased number of students [experiencing] intestinal sickness." Landry has since sent out multiple follow-up messages with updates on the outbreak and the Administration's response.

At press time, Landry said that the College was aware of 54 cases of student illness related to norovirus, but that the actual number is believed to be higher, as "many students who have symptoms are following the hygiene guidance that I posted and not calling the Health Center."

Initially, many students speculated that there was a connection between the increased prevalence of intestinal illness on campus and the multi-state *E. coli* outbreak linked to Romaine lettuce reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on April 10. According to that report, there are currently 84 recorded cases of *E. coli* between 19 states, with the source of the outbreak likely stemming from the Yuma, Arizona growing region.

Fears of an *E. coli* outbreak, however, were quickly quelled by Landry's email, as he stated: "The College's food service provider had not purchased any of the lettuce involved in the recall." Still, Landry said that the food service provider, Bon Appétit, had "stopped serving Romaine and switched to iceberg lettuce last week."

On Monday, the College sent samples to its' lab provider to test for a potentially contagious virus. Then, on Tuesday, Landry emailed the community again with the news that the lab tests had come back positive for norovirus.

Citing the CDC's website, Landy explained that, "'Norovirus is a very contagious virus that can infect anyone. You can get it from an infected person, contaminated food or water, or by touching contaminated surfaces. The virus causes your stomach or intestines or both to get inflamed. This leads you to have stomach pain, nausea, and diarrhea and to throw up.'"

He added: "The virus can spread easily. It can cause severe pain and discomfort, but most people recover in a few days. You should not attend class while you are sick and for at least two days after experiencing your last symptom."

Having identified the presence of norovirus, the College immediately notified the community and enacted a mitigation plan. On Wednesday morning, Facilities Management personnel were tasked with cleaning and disinfecting all public and private bathrooms, common spaces, and, in some cases, individual rooms, in every residence hall on campus.

Additionally, all seven campus dining spaces — Commons Dining Hall, McEwen Dining Hall, Howard Diner, The Little Pub, Opus 1, Opus 2, and Euphoria Smoothies — were closed at various points throughout the day so a thorough cleaning and disinfection of non-porous contact surfaces and touch points could be conducted using Oxivir wipes and a bleach-based solution.

Even after these dining spaces reopened, they offered only basic food options. Commons Dining Hall, for example, did not provide its usual hot food entrée, salad bar, pizza station, pasta station, or sandwich station, instead placing tin foil-wrapped hot food and saran-wrapped salad dishes throughout the dining area for students to take.

Other public spaces on campus, such as the Burke Library, Blood Fitness Center, and other academic buildings, were also closed for periods during the day so cleaning operations could proceed efficiently.

Reuben Haag, the General Manager of Bon Appétit at Hamilton, reiterated the food service company's comittment to proper health and safety practices, saying: "We take food safety very, very seriously at Bon Appétit, and the trust placed in us by the Hamilton community is critically important to us. All of our associates receive ongoing food safety training, and we have many corporate food-safety systems and procedures in place."

He continued: "Our purchasing team has been aware for several weeks of the reports of illnesses around the U.S. that were linked to Romaine lettuce. Originally chopped and bagged Romaine was implicated. Later, [it] expanded to all Romaine from Yuma, AZ. We have a companywide system that alerts all of us if we may have purchased any items linked to food safety concerns, and they are pulled and destroyed. Hamilton did not purchase any Romaine from Arizona. For the past three weeks, we have used only Romaine from California, and last week out of an abundance of caution we stopped using Romaine entirely, switching to iceberg lettuce."

Haag added that when Bon Appétit became aware of reports of student illness, they "immediately began working with the university and our corporate food safety team to investigate [these reports]."

Elizabeth Groubert '21, who leads Student Assembly's Food Committee, added that the norovirus outbreak has also affected the Clinton area at-large. "Many locals in the Clinton and New Hartford area are sick as well, so the norovirus is not unique to Hamilton College," she said.

Groubert argued that Bon Appétit should not be assigned blame for any aspect of the outbreak, saying, "There has been no evidence that the norovirus is linked to food consumption on campus."

She added: "Some students speculate that the virus was contracted at Americares, an off-campus gala held at a barn." Currently, there is no evidence that either Bon Appétit or the Americares Gala had any role in the outbreak. College officials say the investigation into the source of the virus is ongoing.

The College, for its part, has kept the community updated with regards to the outbreak and the corrective measures it is taking. On Wednesday, Hamilton's website published an article titled,"Norovirus Confirmed on Campus", in which it stated: "Hamilton has confirmed the presence of norovirus on campus and has implemented a plan to address it. More than two dozen students have become sick with symptoms consistent with the virus."

They also advised that, "students should not attend class while exhibiting any symptoms for the virus and for two days after the last symptom is present. Employees who exhibit symptoms should not report to work. The CDC recommends people wash their hands frequently with warm soapy water and remain hydrated to help prevent transmission."

An additional press release sent out at 4:43 PM on Wednesday reiterated the mitigation plan outlined by Landry and advised that the cleaning and disinfection process would continue through Wednesday night and into Thursday morning, with efforts being "modified or increased as necessary."

Hamilton is not the only college community currently being affected by a norovirus outbreak. According to the *Associated Press*, Western Connecticut State University, located in Danbury, CT, closed school on April 23 to disinfect the campus after about 100 students fell ill due to norovirus. The University, which has an undergraduate population numbering approximately 5,700, has two campuses, both of which were closed on Monday.

Similar to Hamilton, Western Connecticut school officials stated that the "source of the norovirus outbreak wasn't immediately clear."

Despite concerns over the widespread nature of the virus, the outbreak has also prompted many acts of care and support around campus.

Shaquelle Levy '20, a residential advisor for Bundy West Residence Hall, was one of many RAs who sent out a list of available tips and resources for combatting the virus, including delivering box meals to students who are unable to leave their rooms.

In the Sadove Student Center, students could be seen purchasing chicken noodle soup and electrolyte-based drinks from the campus bookstore for their sick friends and classmates.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB HANDELMAN/@HAMILTONCOLLEGE

Commons Dining Hall closed for an extended period on time on Wednesday for disinfection as the College attempted to limit the spread of norovirus.

Hamilton to partner with American Talent Initiative to support disadvantaged students

by Benjamin Katz '20
News editor

On April 18, the College Communications Office announced that Hamilton would be joining the American Talent Initiative (ATI), a national group of colleges focused on improving outcomes for low-income students. Founded in 2016, and supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the ATI includes over 100 colleges and universities.

Initially founded by a group of 30 institutions, the ATI has set lofty goals for helping high-achieving, low-income students enroll in and graduate from four-year institutions. By 2025, the ATI aims to educate an additional 50,000 of these students at 290 different American colleges and universities that graduate at least 70 percent of their students within six years.

The founding of the ATI was inspried by conclusive research that showed low- and moderate-income students are much less likely to graduate with a college degree than peers from higher income families. The ATI also found that academically high-achieving students from low-income families were less likely to enroll in the elite colleges that they were academically suited to attend. Because of this research, the ATI also works to improve how colleges conduct outreach to low- and moderate-income students

Reflecting on Hamilton joining the ATI, President David Wippman said: "We are joining the American Talent Initiative because it matches our interest in supporting access to college for talented students from lower-income families. We believe our affiliation with ATI will help us reach even more students whose academic credentials have earned them a place at Hamilton, and we look forward to helping ensure these students' future success."

The ATI focuses on three distinct areas to accomplish its' goals. The Initiative aims to develop a sustained national campaign to raise awareness of the talent of low- and moderate-income students, while also aiming to help higher education leaders to develop initiatives around improving access to education. The ATI supports its member institutions in encouraging outreach to more diverse student backgrounds prior to the admissions process, prioritizing need-based financial aid and minimizing the gap in graduation rates between disadvantaged students by supporting their progress within institutions.

In addition, the ATI supports the development of research facilitated by the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program and Ithaka S+R to promote practices that support underprivileged students.

Both the Aspen Institute and Ithaka S+R received a $1.7 million multi-year grant to facilitate the sharing of best practices, which they use to bring together leaders of the various institutions in the initiative. Currently, the steering committee of the ATI includes, among other education leaders, the presidents of the University of Washington, Ohio State University, Princeton University, Franklin and Marshall College, and Davidson College. The ATI includes all members of the Ivy League and 17 state flagship universities, as well as Hamilton's peer institutions, such as Amherst, Carleton, Haverford, and Williams. Through the partnership, the educational leadership of Hamilton will be able to network in more succinct ways with leaders of other schools at the forefront of improving college access to students of all backgrounds.

The ATI is a logical next step in Hamilton's misison to proivde high quality education regardless of socioeconomic background."Joining ATI is another step toward identifying and enrolling talented, socioeconomically diverse students from across the United States," said Monica Inzer, Hamilton's Vice President for Enrollment Management.

The College also announced earlier this year a partnership with Questbridge, an organization that places and facilitates the application and enrollment of low-income students at elite colleges. The research and partnernships that the ATI faciltitates are perfectly in-step with the mission of organizations such as Questbridge. Furthermore, Hamilton has also partnered with other organzations, as well as internal programs, to support low- and moderate-income students, making the College a strong partner for the ATI.

Off-campus roundup: Trump travel ban, serial killer arrest, and a van attack in Toronto

by Amanda Kim '21
News Editor

In an effort to connect with current events off the Hill — locally, domestically, and abroad — The Spectator *will periodically publish a news recap that seeks to inform the Hamilton community on the basics of contemporary issues.*

Travel Ban Before SCOTUS

On Wednesday, April 22, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments on whether or not President Donald Trump could legally restrict travellers from several predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States with his controversial "travel ban." Trump's lawyers argued that the ban, which has now been revised twice, has nothing to do with religion. Though Supreme Court justices do not make their rulings during oral arguments, the Supreme Court is expected to support the President, as conservatives make up five of the nine justices on the Supreme Court. Four of the conservative justices expressed sympathy for the ban on Wednesday, while conservative Justice Anthony Kennedy appeared conflicted. The four liberal justices made their dissent clear but seemed unable to convince their more conservative colleagues. A final decision is likely to be released by the end of June.

Attack in Toronto

10 people were killed and 14 more injured on Monday, April 23, when a rented van plowed into pedestrians on a busy Toronto street. The perpetrator, 25-year-old Alek Minassian, was charged with 10 counts of first-degree murder and 13 counts of attempted murder on Tuesday. Though authorities have yet to determine Minassian's motive, many reports have speculated that his actions may have been rooted in misogyny. Minassian self-identified as an "incel," or "involuntary celibate," a term that refers to online groups of men who unite through their lack of sexual experience. Minutes before he carried out the attack, Minassian posted on Facebook praising Elliot Rodger, who killed six people in 2014 in an attempt to punish women for rejecting him. The Toronto police have said that Minassian's victims were mostly female.

Anti-Semitism in Germany

Thousands all across Germany marched on Wednesday, April 25, to protest anti-Semitism in response to rising concerns over the issue. Protestors marched in solidarity with Germany's Jewish community, with the march coming a day after Josef Schuster, the head of Germany's Central Council of Jews, warned against Jewish men wearing a kippa in public. In response, those marching wore the head covering as a display of solidarity. The largest demonstration took place in the city of Berlin, while other peaceful marches were held in the cities of Cologne, Potsdam, Erfurt, and others. The marchers were of all different faiths.

Golden State Killer Caught

72-year-old Citrus Heights resident and former police officer Joseph James DeAngelo, Jr. was arrested in his home in Sacramento, California on Wednesday, April 25 by authorities who suspect that he is the "Golden State Killer," a California serial killer believed to have murdered 12 people and raped at least 50 between the years 1976 to 1986. DeAngelo was arrested after investigators matched discarded DNA from his home to DNA evidence from some of the crime scenes. Though the crimes took place over 30 years ago, interest was recently renewed. A book, *I'll Be Gone in the Dark: One Woman's Obsessive Search for the Golden State Killer*, was published in February 2018, while an HLN series on the crimes, *Unmasking a Killer*, aired around the same time. DeAngelo is currently being held without bail in Sacramento and faces capital murder charges.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLO ALLEGRI / REUTERS

Workers clean a sidewalk in Toronto a day after a van struck and killed 10 people along a busy intersection.

Asaram Bapu Rape Case

On Wednesday, April 25, a court in India sentenced self-proclaimed spiritual guru Asaram Bapu to life imprisonment for the rape of a 16-year-old girl in 2013. The guilty verdict was declared amidst social unrest surrounding the prosecution of rapists in India. Many Indian citizens have recently protested that rapists should be held more accountable for their crimes under the law, placing pressure upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi to enact such changes. Asaram Bapu is one of India's best-known spiritual gurus, and many people also took to the streets to protest his arrest. Asaram's spokesperson Neelam Dubey told reporters that Asaram's legal team will be challenging the guilty verdict in India's High Court. As outrage over sexual violence grows in India, the country's Cabinet also recently passed an executive order to make the rape of a girl under 12 years of age punishable by the death penalty.

Student Assembly members attend semiannual NESGov conference

by Noelle Connors '19
Staff Writer

Between April 13-15, Student Assembly members attended the semi-annual NESGov Conference, a convention where the student governments of various NESCAC schools come together and discuss common problems they face and their potential solutions. This year's conference was hosted by Middlebury College.

Student Assembly Members Jordan D'Addio '20, a Class of 2020 Representative, and Gianni Hill '21, the Class of 2021 President, helped organize Hamilton's attendance at the conference. Julian Perricone '20, the current Student Assembly Vice President, and Gillian Mak '18, the current Student Assembly Secretary, also took the trip to NESGov.

The conference consisted of different small group discussions about important topics in NESCAC student governments. First, the groups discussed diversity and inclusion. Hill said his group focused on better ways to build connection with international students, including offering Driver's Ed resources. Other groups discussed blind funding processes for transportation to and participation in marches and protests to encourage more diversity of thought on campus.

The second topic discussed was collaboration and communication between Student Assembly and the student body. Hamilton leaders addressed the challenges of having students read the minutes because of the large number of emails that students receive on a daily basis. Other schools have started posting all professors' office hours on their Student Assembly websites, as well as creating a platform for students to start petitions for their school so that they can become more involved.

The third topic discussed was wellness and safety. Other schools were reportedly impressed with Hamilton's various mental health initiatives. Hamilton also shared information about the new Wellness Center and the work being done to get more parking for Griffin Road and Rogers Estate residents. Other schools discussed their 'pop-up' wellness days, where the college president will cancel classes suddenly during periods of high stress.

Hamilton Student Assembly members were also able to attend a breakfast with the President of Middlebury, Laurie L. Patton, during this conference. Patton discussed with Hamilton students how to make Town Hall events more successful in the future, as well as discussing how themed housing at Middlebury has helped build community and connection despite a similarly a sprawling campus

Attendees of the Conference brought back many new ideas to Student Assembly. Some changes they are considering include implementing iClickers to get statistics from SA meetings, implementing positions on SA for international students and January-admit students, themed meetings, and displaying statistics about progress on initiatives SA has pursued in public spaces.

"I left with a list of projects that I would like Hamilton to take on, and although it's the end of the school-year, we are having conversations about what we can try to get done," Perricone said. He went on to add that Hamilton's Student Assembly not only gained knowledge but gave it out as well.

Perricone continued: "That all being said, I also felt a lot of confidence leaving NESGov. Some of our SA's most basic practices had never even been considered by our peer institutions, such as distributing minutes to the entire College, or having live coverage of our meetings. Many other Hamilton practices seemed to stand out, and when we spoke about the way we do things here, other schools quickly took up a pen to take copious notes. There is always room for improvement and SA will always take strides in that direction, but it was at least comforting to know that we are on the right path."

Hamilton is planning to host the NESGov conference next fall. D'Addio summarized the benefits of the conference, saying, "We hope to bring to Hamilton a few action items that specifically target our own Student Assembly's communication with the student body. Additionally, we plan to host this conference in the fall and are looking at ways to make the conference we host as productive as possible."

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency *The Spectator* publishes a selection of the previous week's incidents each Thursday. Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* use discretion regarding what is published.

Monday, April 16

12:25 A.M. Vehicle Towing – Faculty Lots
12:38 A.M. Marijuana Complaint – South Hall
3:57 A.M. Smoke Detector – Babbitt Hall
10:21 P.M. Complaint – List Center

Tuesday, April 17

4:00 P.M. Check the Welfare - Residence Hall
8:05 P.M. Mechanical Issue – Pump House

Wednesday, April 18

1:38 A.M. Assist – Root Lot
3:16 A.M. Area Check – Kennedy TSA
12:39 P.M. Motorist Assist – Fieldhouse Lot
3:53 P.M. Medical Emergency – Schambach Hall
4:18 P.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
6:08 P.M. Smoke Detector – Babbitt Hall

Thursday, April 19

11:55 A.M. Check the Welfare – Residence Hall
4:30 P.M. Motorist Assist – Root Lot
4:41 P.M. Mechanical Issue – 4002 Campus Road
6:52 P.M. Bicycle Larceny – Beinecke Village
9:22 P.M. Property Damage – Milbank Hall
9:58 P.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
11:51 P.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

Friday, April 20

12:28 A.M. Smoke Detector – Root Residence Hall
12:28 A.M. Marijuana Complaint – Root Residence Hall
8:05 A.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
12:12 P.M. Motorist Assist – Major Lot
1:14 P.M. Check the Welfare – Residence Hall
6:44 P.M. Property Damage – Major Lot

Saturday, April 21

10:56 A.M. Area Check – Taylor Science Center
10:45 P.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
11:28 P.M. Vehicle Assist – Griffin Road Apts.

Sunday, April 22

12:00 A.M. Harassment – Campus Safety Office
12:25 A.M. Noise/Marijuana Complaint – South Hall
12:56 A.M. Area Check – Babbit Hall
1:05 A.M. Fire Alarm – Babbit Hall
1:28 P.M. Suspicious Incident – Eells House
6:56 P.M. Animal Complaint - Sadovce Center
3:58 P.M. Smoke Detector – Babbitt Hall
9:47 P.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall

In sickness and in health

A quick message of support for all the students and community members currently suffering from norovirus, and to all those who are looking out for us during this time. Although you will probably hear and see it all over campus in the coming days, here are the recommended practices for preventing the spread of norovirus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

Practice proper hand hygiene

Wash your hands carefully with soap and water, especially after using the toilet and changing diapers, and always before eating or preparing food. If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. These alcohol-based products can help reduce the number of germs on your hands, but they are not a substitute for washing with soap and water.

Handle and prepare food safely

Carefully rinse fruits and vegetables, and cook oysters and other shellfish thoroughly before eating.

People with norovirus illness should not prepare food for others while they have symptoms and for at least 2 days after they recover from their illness.

Clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces

After someone vomits or has diarrhea, put on disposable gloves to immediately clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces using a bleach-based household cleaner as directed on the product label. If no such cleaning product is available, you can use a solution made with 5 tablespoons to 1.5 cups of household bleach per 1 gallon of water. Always clean up the entire area immediately after someone with norovirus vomits or has diarrhea. It will help keep others from getting sick from norovirus.

Wash laundry thoroughly

Immediately remove and wash clothing or linens that may be contaminated with vomit or poop. Handle soiled items carefully — try not to shake them — to avoid spreading virus. If available, wear disposable gloves while handling soiled clothing or linens and wash your hands after handling. Wash soiled items with detergent at the maximum available cycle length and then machine dry.

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The Spectator 's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national, and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

The Spectator **editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.**

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***The Spectator* is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely, and high-quality publication.**

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Celebrating 170 years, we were first published as The Radiator *in 1847.*

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

Class & Charter will be a day to remember (or not)

by Elizabeth Foot '20
Staff Writer

There are two definitions of Class & Charter Day. One, for the students, is a time that involves becoming "blackout" on a beautiful spring Friday before 2 PM and listening to a big-name artist perform. The other, for faculty and administrators, is the Monday after, to award faculty and student members for their contribution of the academic community. I would say they have a definition for the preceding Friday, but I doubt it would be labelled Class & Charter Day; more likely it would be: "Fingers crossed nobody goes to the hospital, falls off a building, or severely injures themselves or anybody else" Day. Even shorter: "I Need to be Off-Campus Before Noon" Day.

Regardless, both C&C days will happen. As usual, the headlining artist mattered and did not matter at all. This year, the Campus Activities Board (CAB) sent out an email asking if students wanted a bigger name for the Feb Fest comedy show and a smaller header liner for C&C day, or keep the bigger name for C&C. The students spoke and now Charli XCX, known for "Boom Clap" and other radio hits, will be performing.

I, like anyone else, is excited to hear her, but the truth of the matter is, most students on C&C day could be told they are listening to Beyonce, Charli XCX, or Justin Bieber when really Raffi or the Diddly Bops is on; no one would have a clue. There would still be claps, there would still be singing, there would still be enjoyment. So, it raises the question of whether CAB should still pay for such big names when the students are so drunk they don't remember much.

My initial answer to this is: yes. Not all students drink excessively on C&C day, so who's to say that group doesn't get full enjoyment of a big name performer? Quite honestly, you could argue the bigger the name, the safer and less belligerent students will be in order to best experience such a performance. Any students who would want to blackout Beyonce is beyond hope; there is nothing anyone can do to increase their overall safety.

Personally, while I know the excessive drinking that occurs on Class & Charter day is a little unsettling, I find it less unsettling than excessive drinking that occurs on non-school sponsored days. And from the reaction of Campus Security and other faculty members, it seems as if everyone is on the same page: letting students climb all over Ferg's roof while Campus Security keeps the peace and a watchful eye is much safer than kids running through the streets of downtown Clinton.

Everybody makes their own decisions — it's one of the learning curves of being in college. And while I don't think any student should be in the position to be so drunk they injure themselves or someone else, or for whatever reason end up in the hospital, having C&C offer lesser name artists would not affect the overall hype of the day.

In other words, people would still be drunkenly clapping and shouting; the only difference would be the quality of music. And, for all those who abstain from drinking, and even for those who drink a little, listening to a popularly-chosen singer is something everyone should be excited about and able to enjoy.

In the end, it probably won't matter. If the sun is out, everyone will have a great day.

Even with aid, it's different as a low-income student

by Julia Dupuis '21
Staff Writer

Spending $300 on a Spanish textbook. Buying a laptop to keep up with classwork. Paying for plane tickets or bus rides to come home for break. Finding dress clothes for an on-campus interview. The college experience involves more than just paying room, board, and tuition. For most students, these costs are just as much a part of college life as complaining about dining hall food or pulling an all-nighter. But for me — and many low-income students around campus — the additional costs of college can feel like an unaffordable luxury.

Last year, *New York Times* published an article titled, "Some Colleges Have More Students from the Top 1 Percent Than the Bottom 60," in which Hamilton College was ranked 18th in the United States on the list of colleges with the highest wealth disparities. Even though higher-education across the country has been moving towards a more expansive financial aid system, the percentage of low-income students who enroll in college has dropped by 10 percent since 2008.

The big reason? Today's college admissions process — including that of Hamilton — continue to put low-income, underprivileged students at a severe disadvantage. Hamilton is one of the more expensive private schools in the country, and class markers are everywhere — from the way students dress to the way they talk. But money is just one part of the problem. Students coming from an underprivileged background face an endless list of challenges when it comes to admission and college success. Lower income students often have to hold a part-time job outside of class, which leaves them little time or resources to prepare for the ACT or SAT testing. Wealthier students can also afford expensive test preparation programs, and some start training as early as middle school.

On top of good test scores, college admissions officials expect to see evidence of student involvement on campus — leadership positions, clubs, and sports outside of class. For students who work or care for family members outside of school, this requirement can prove difficult to fulfill. And even though the Common Application provides a place to put work experience, student applications may still seem lacking without the benefit of high achieving clubs like debate, MUN or school leadership.

Advanced Placement or other college-level classes can also elevate a student's transcript. For students from lower-income communities, class sizes are too large for individualized attention and the range of available classes is limited. Recommendations come from teachers who might have up to 50 students in a single class, and counselors advise hundreds of students at a time.

With all of these barriers in place, "need blind" admissions becomes a double-edged sword. When colleges don't take students' socioeconomic disadvantages into account, lower-income students often struggle to compete with their wealthier peers in terms of grades, test scores, extracurriculars and teacher recommendations.

While Ivy Leagues and elite universities offer great financial aid programs for lower-income families, these barriers mean that low-income students are still underrepresented on these campuses. In many cases, only the highest achieving low-income students are admitted, leaving behind thousands of ambitious, intelligent students who lacked the resources to fulfill admissions requirements.

Furthermore, additional college costs mean that low-income students often face social isolation on campus. As a low-income student with a generous financial aid package, I still have to work five jobs just to afford my board costs, not to mention the extra travel costs and money that I have to send back to my parents. The effects of an empty wallet influence virtually every aspect of campus life. Whether it's spending all my free time at work, staying on campus for breaks because I can't pay the travel costs to go home, or eating alone in the dining hall when friends are out somewhere that I can't afford — campus culture is oriented around money in a lot of subtle, alienating ways.

Underprivileged students are dropped into a culture where many of their peers have a direct line to prestigious internships and have the financial support of their parents for tuition, board, and additional costs. Poor students navigate the college experience in a different way — we have to learn how to cope with the disadvantages hanging over our heads. It is an immense privilege to be attending a private college with a generous financial aid program, and I can acknowledge that I'm still financially better off than many. But it's no secret that institutions like Hamilton are designed to give parents the best education that money can buy.

There is something inherently damaging in the college admissions system beyond the glossy brochures and the promise of a need blind process. Despite the attempts to bring more low-income students on campus, the system as it stands right now is rooted in privilege, wealth, and power. These institutions are about giving rich students the tools to stay rich. When low-income students are excluded from higher education opportunities, they are excluded from the opportunities for social mobility and the chance to shape the future of America's economic, social, and cultural institutions.

Colleges are designed for middle-to-upper-class individuals, which gives the keys to higher education and all its opportunities to those who are wealthy enough for it. While I commend Hamilton College for making the effort to reach out to lower-income communities, it's vital that we turn a critical eye to the admissions process and the campus culture of wealth. These barriers are an example of how nurture — your upbringing, your parent's wealth — can affect your future. Success isn't born in a vacuum.

It isn't enough to expand only financial aid policies. These inequalities exist at the foundation of the college admissions system, and they're present in every aspect of day-to-day college life.

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
Norovirus. I love this stuff. I'm serious. Very fascinating air of tense contamination around.	**Gorgeous weather. Bet you didn't expect to see this one in the thumbs down column, huh? Well, think again.**	**My independent study. Believe it or not, it is going really well, actually. Thanks for asking.**
The housing lottery situation. This is funny, because I got a suite pretty early, and don't have anything to worry about. Sorry, kids.	**Disease-minded deep cleaning. I like to clean my own public suite space so I can claim moral superiority over my suite-mates.**	**Kanye West. In 2018, there's nothing like a little political pot-stirring on Twitter to promote your upcoming album, eh Mr. Yeezus?**

by Zachary Deming '20

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

Preventing sexual misconduct starts with us

by Gavin Meade '20
Opinion Editor

As the end of my second year at Hamilton begins its sultry decline, I find myself reflecting on the year and on the community that I've worked so hard to build a home in. Last year around this time, I wrote an article about how it was necessary for an increased focus on mental health. I'm proud to say that in the year since publishing that article, the Hamilton community and Administration has made leaps and bounds in changing policies and increasing the conversations about mental health. There are of course those who do not see this progress, but that is beside the point.

The focus of this article is sexual misconduct on Hamilton's campus and the pervasive culture that allows for the perpetuation of this misconduct. I will be focusing on the student side of this problem. The choice to focus on student and bystander intervention stems from my own experiences with sexual misconduct on this campus as well as a belief that our actions and choices, not those of the Administration, will make the biggest difference.

My reasoning for this is simple: The policies in place are fundamentally reactive and not proactive. The policies that are in place are structured to address alleged incidents after they occur, not to prevent them. The argument that if reactive policies were more stringent they'd become deterrents is not one I place stock in. Streaking, drinking under the age of 21, possessing a fake ID, smoking marijuana, and many other activities that Hamilton College students partake in are against policies and they are disciplined when appropriate. Before you comment angrily or share this article with a rant on Facebook: No, I am not equating sexual misconduct or sexual assault with drinking illegally. The point I'm making is that reactive policies are clearly not sufficient deterrents for students on this campus.

Every student that comes to Hamilton receives Title IX Fundamental training, an introductory training to the Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policies of the school. Additionally, all athletes, EMTs, RAs, Peer Counselors, and leaders of Student Organizations are mandated to receive this training. The most recent statistic that I've seen is that 1,428 students have attended this training in the 2017-18 academic year. Training does not mean anything if students do not internalize what they've learned and change their behavior. Despite the conversations that are held on this campus sexual assault and misconduct is still rampant.

According to Hamilton's Climate Survey, over a quarter of students experience sexual harassment and 2-4 percent experience forcible penetration each year. This is unacceptable. When assigning blame or looking for an explanation as to why this occurs, I look to the student body. I look to the Village Tavern, the conversations I overhear in Commons, and the ubiquitous presence of alcohol on Hamilton's social scene.

When it comes to proper behavior on the weekends or in party environments, there is very little grey area. Under no circumstance is it appropriate for you to move another human being by their hips or waist at the VT when you're trying to move by them. In no universe is it acceptable to call a girl a "bitch" because she doesn't have sex with you if you take her to a formal event. Why anyone thinks that being drunk is an excuse for walking up to a girl and grabbing her without any warning or conversation baffles me.

The context of drinking or a party environment does not mean that the rules surrounding what is and what is not acceptable changes. I can't speak for any of you, but if I saw someone in Commons do what is considered normal behavior at VT, I'd be appalled. Supplying someone with liquor to "loosen them up" and make them more likely to have sex with you is not acceptable. If someone isn't willing to hookup with you on a random Tuesday night then a 2 AM, then a drunken hookup probably isn't the best thing for either of you. Many college men perceive women who drink in bars as being sexually promiscuous and, therefore, appropriate targets for sexual aggression. The law states that a person who is incapacitated is legally unable to give consent to sexual activity. Period, full stop.

The only way that the culture and conversation on this campus will change is if individuals take a stand when they see someone acting inappropriately. I realize that this can be hard to do, especially when the person violating another's space is an older member of your team or Greek society. However, something being hard is not an excuse for not speaking up. If you witness something, you are accountable. It is your responsibility to look out for your friends and community when you're on this campus.

As of Feb. 27, every winter and spring athlete has received bystander intervention training from Cori Smith, the Title IX Prevention and Education Coordinator. A huge amount of appreciation is due to the Hamilton Athletics Program for sponsoring this training. Athletes were chosen not because they report or are reported more often, but because athletes are student leaders, and the NCAA requires Division III athletes to receive sexual violence prevention training. This bystander intervention training has also been presented to members of Student Assembly, and will be received by members of the Delta Chi fraternity in the coming weeks. 443 students have taken this 90-minute course. Of the respondents to the post-course survey 94 percent said that they feel more prepared and empowered to intervene in instances of sexual misconduct.

Eliminating stigma around alcohol-involved sexual victimization is essential to supporting victims. Survivors of sexual assault, especially when the circumstances surrounding the assault involve alcohol, often fear that they will not be believed or will be blamed. As students we need to fight this stigma. Validating the experience of survivors and recipients of unwanted misconduct is imperative if we are to change the culture on this campus. It is time to stop normalizing drunken advances in suites and in the VT. On Monday, members of Student Assembly, as well as Liaisons to Student Assembly, met to receive bystander intervention training. At one point in the conversation, an Assembly member brought up the paradigm surrounding Greek life formals. She posited that it is time to stop the "all or nothing" approach to formals. Gordon went on to say that she, and many of her friends, were told as first-years that when they ask someone to a formal event or are asked, that it is either explicitly as friends or accompanied by an expectation of a hook up. I strongly agree with this point and if there are any of you out there that think sex is obligatory after a formal evening than I'd encourage you to change your mind.

Sam Gordon '19 has weekly meetings with Smith in her capacity as one of the leaders of SAVES and the Liaison to Student Assembly. When I asked her what the biggest thing she saw as an impediment towards chipping away at the culture surrounding sexual violence, she said, "Some bad behaviors are really embedded into social culture here to the point that people don't recognize that their actions are inappropriate." Gordon went on to say that group trainings like the bystander intervention training are going to help chip away at this problem. One student-athlete who completed the post-training survey reported, "Being at Hamilton normalizes a lot of sexual encounters that are not okay, but stepping back and looking at those situations through discussions like this help me understand my own stance on these situations."

Last year, I wrote an article that touched on alcohol and sexual assault briefly and a large amount of negative feedback came from men who felt targeted. If this article makes you feel uncomfortable with your behavior: good. Be better.

In the Student Assembly training, Smith shared her belief that: "It's not how things go here, it is how we make them."

Lets make them better together.

Let's not sugarcoat it: the effect of campus exclusivity from an "independent regular person's" perspective

by Sophie Menashi '19
Fall Web Editor

First, I want to say that this piece responds to an article in the April 19 issue of the *Spectator*, titled "The good of Greek: an insider's perspective on the positive aspects of the rush process at Hamilton."

Second, I want acknowledge how much fun I personally had during the first few months of rushing sororities at Hamilton. I was able to meet a ton of new people, forge new friendships, and have a more vibrant social scene than I was ever able to have before.

Third, I want to affirm how happy I am to not be in a sorority — I do not believe that a sorority is a social structure in which I would have been happy or have thrived.

That being said, two years ago, as an impressionable, socially insecure first-year, being cut from the rushing process was traumatic. Having to come to terms with losing the future social life I had crafted in my head was incredibly difficult, not to mention dealing with the feelings of social and physical inadequacy that comes with being rejected by a sorority. I definitely don't regret rushing, but I will look back on it as the time that first made me feel like an outsider here at Hamilton.

Not being involved with Greek life or an athletic team has provided me with social fluidity that I am incredibly grateful for — throughout my years at Hamilton, I've been able to make connections with individuals from all parts of campus and all walks of life.

But my experience is unique. Most of my other "unaffiliated" friends, women in particular, have a distinct disdain for Hamilton social life. To put it simply, if you're not in PBX, ATX, or a women's sports team, you're not particularly welcome at most of the "lightside" social-life staples, like Breakway or the Village Tavern.

But this social exclusivity is certainly not limited to the "lightside" — the "darkside" harbors the same exact vitriolic restrictions within its social scene. If you're not part of KDO, Sig, Red Weather, or some other "darkside" group, you're not welcome at a suite party either. As a floater, I've had to come to terms with this immediate hostility; if you ignore the people who will always look down on you for your lack of affiliation, you can still have fun at parties and the bars. But that's not easy.

It's not easy to walk into the Village Tavern and look around at the dozens of unfriendly faces. It's not easy to walk into Milbank and feel like an outsider. Yes, you can get to a point where you say "'f' it" and just be your fun, independent self, but not everyone gets to that point, and not every night do you have the confidence required to project that attitude.

Some people might respond to this article with apathy; they might say, sorry you're not cool enough, pretty enough, athletic enough, hipster enough, etc. to have been welcomed into a Hamilton society of some sort. And that's okay, I'm not looking for pity because I don't feel bad about being unaffiliated — I wear my independence loud and proud.

I'm writing this because, as a community, we don't talk enough about pervasive exclusivity of our social life. We don't talk enough about pernicious social divide between the "lightside" and the "darkside." We don't talk enough about the hundreds of students forgotten in the race to become affiliated.

I think it's time we did.

Bachelor & Bachelorette

James Gaskill '20

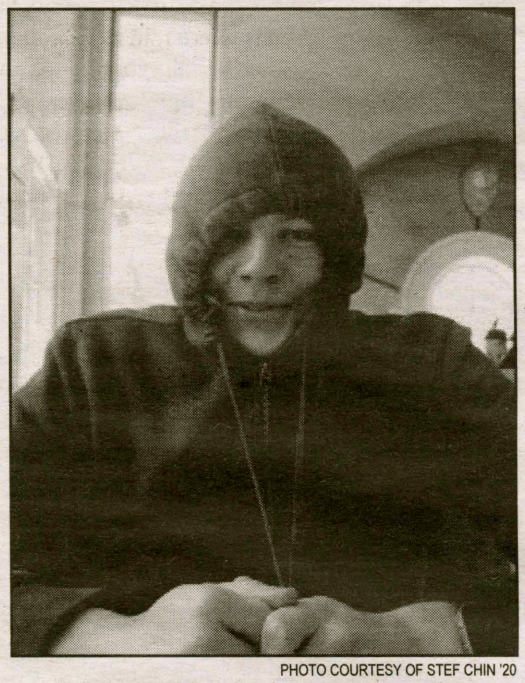


PHOTO COURTESY OF STEF CHIN '20

Hometown: *Chesapeake, V.A.*
Home on Campus: *Diner.*
Major: *History.*
Turn on? *That one person (besides me) in the diner that plays '80s music.*
Turn off? *People who still use the abbreviation "ur" in text messages.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *I would be Rogers because a few people go in thinking it will be all right, but the longer they stay, the more annoying they realize it gets.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two celebrities, whom would you pick and why? *Peter Dinklage and Shaquille O'Neal. I think I'm about the average of their heights.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"What's the worst that could happen?" - Dr. Pepper (2009).*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"Hey, are you a 0% APR loan? Because I'm having trouble understanding your terms and conditions and you aren't showing any interest."*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Mozzarella sticks, my blue sweatshirt, and my unicorn mask.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *Sadove basement because everyone forgot I existed.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Diner staff. I could have unlimited mozz sticks.*
What's your patronus and why? *A peacock because apparently my hair sticks up in every direction.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *A gladiator who fought well in the arena that could rise to future glory.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Stef, the person editing this article.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Bean, the tennis coach's dog.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Isserman. No reason required.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *Probably the giant unicorn mask sitting in the corner on its own bed. Not sure though.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Taking the last fork in Commons.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Spaghetti because I'm always so upsetti.*
What was your first thought this morning? *"How did Australia lose a war to the emus?"*

Erin Walicki '20

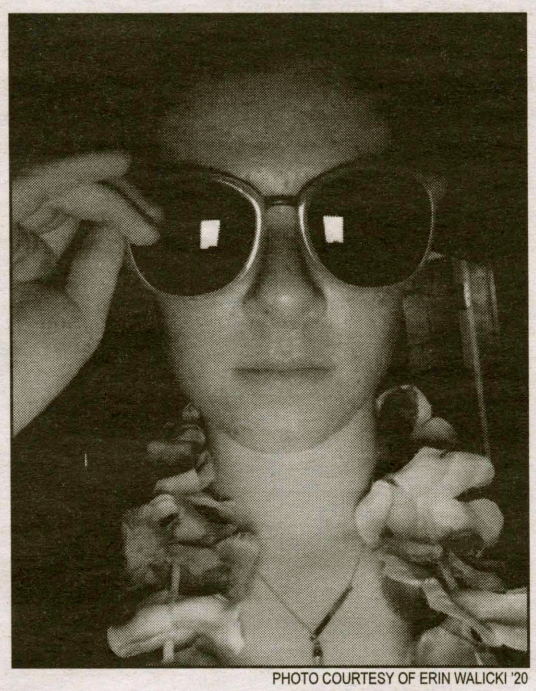


PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN WALICKI '20

Hometown: *Ridgewood, N.J.*
Home on Campus: *Root, the room right above the hammock... Sorry if we make awkward eye contact.*
Major: *Chemistry.*
Turn on? *Chocolate cake.*
Turn off? *Romaine lettuce.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Ferg, I'm gorgeous.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Vance Joy and Taylor Swift, because I'm usually pretty chill but I am lowkey really sassy.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"You're not you when you're hungry." — Snickers (2010).*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *Do you have 11 protons? 'Cuz you're sodium fine.*
What's your type? *ISTJ.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *Sunscreen, Parks and Rec, and dogs.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *The fire pit in the Glen.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *Science Center radio bathroom.*
What's your patronus and why? *A cheetah — I'm loyal, independent, and graceful.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Using candles and other open flames while role-playing inside of a campus building.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Hamilton Memes for dealing with all our crises.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Commons being closed for breakfast.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Ronnie. He knows what I like.*
What would your perfect date be? *A sunrise hike with fried eggs and toast waiting for me at the summit.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *The stock photos hanging on my fridge... I named them too.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *High fructose corn syrup, I'm not as sweet as I seem.*
Lights on or lights off? *Off. Go green.*
What was your first thought this morning? *"Why on earth did I sign up to canoe at 5 a.m.?"*
Which member of Disney royalty are you? *Merida... Let's pretend she's Disney.*

From Where I Sit: Why I chose ESOL

by Amr Abdelhady '21
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

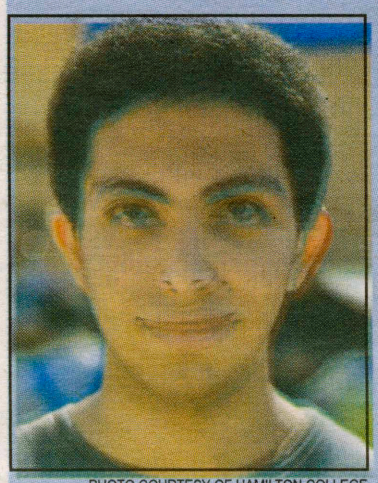


PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

I'm currently taking ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) with Barbara Britt-Hysell, Director of the ESOL Program, and it's definitely one of my favorite classes this spring. I was first looking for a writing intensive course to take since I didn't take any during my freshman fall. International students have already met with Ms. Hysell on the international orientation where she told us about ESOL for the first time. I looked the course up and found out that the topic for this semester is especially interesting and provides a "break" from all my science and math classes, so I immediately decided to take it.

ESOL's topic this semester is about protecting human rights and studying famous social and political movements throughout the modern history, especially here in the U.S. We talked about violations of human rights in many parts of the world, civil rights movement by Dr. King, origins of Jazz music, women's movement, environmental movement, genetic engineering, and much more in the context of human rights. Each of us chooses a human right to defend in a final paper that's due by the end of the semester and we will discuss how to ensure that this human right will be protected. I have chosen to talk about freedom of thought, for it has personal importance to me due to where I was born and raised. In my paper (that I'm working on right now) I argue that to ensure freedom of thought will be protected, we need some form of global coalition between activists from all over the world.

What I like most about ESOL is the discussions we have in class, which are definitely thought provoking and very important for the well-being of this world. I also like having guest lecturers to give us more information about the topics we discuss.

So overall, it has been a great experience and I totally recommend that you take it if you're looking for a writing-intensive course.

'From Where I Sit' is a column dedicated to international students' voices. If you are interested in contributing a piece, contact Features editors at featspec@hamilton.edu

HOW TO BEAT THE NOROVIRUS

by Molly Geisinger '19
FEATURES EDITOR

Chances are you have heard about "Hamageddon", which has plagued the Hill as of late. By Wednesday afternoon, Jeff Landry, Associate Dean of Students for Health and Safety, notified students in a campus-wide email that 54 students have contracted the virus, though he believes the "actual number is higher." In the meantime, there are several precautions that wary and still-healthy students can take to ward off the plague.

Wash your hands and use hand sanitizer as frequently as you can. Before meals, after meals, after touching a doorknob, while using the computer, or taking part in any other activites that include exposure to lots of germs. Remember that hand sanitizing is a supplement for hand washing, not a replacement.

Grab a disinfectant wipe and clean off all surfaces of objects and things that you use frequently. That's right, your cellphone, doorknobs, light switches, desk tops, mini fridge handles, you name it. All of the surfaces, gadgets, and other thingamabobs that you often come in contact with are fair game.

Oxivir TB wipes, which Physical Plant distributed to dorm common rooms Wednesday morning, are the best wipes to use. These wipes disinfect non-porous surfaces within 60 seconds and are EPA-registered to kill MRSA and Norovirus. Clorox bleach wipes and sprays can also do the job.

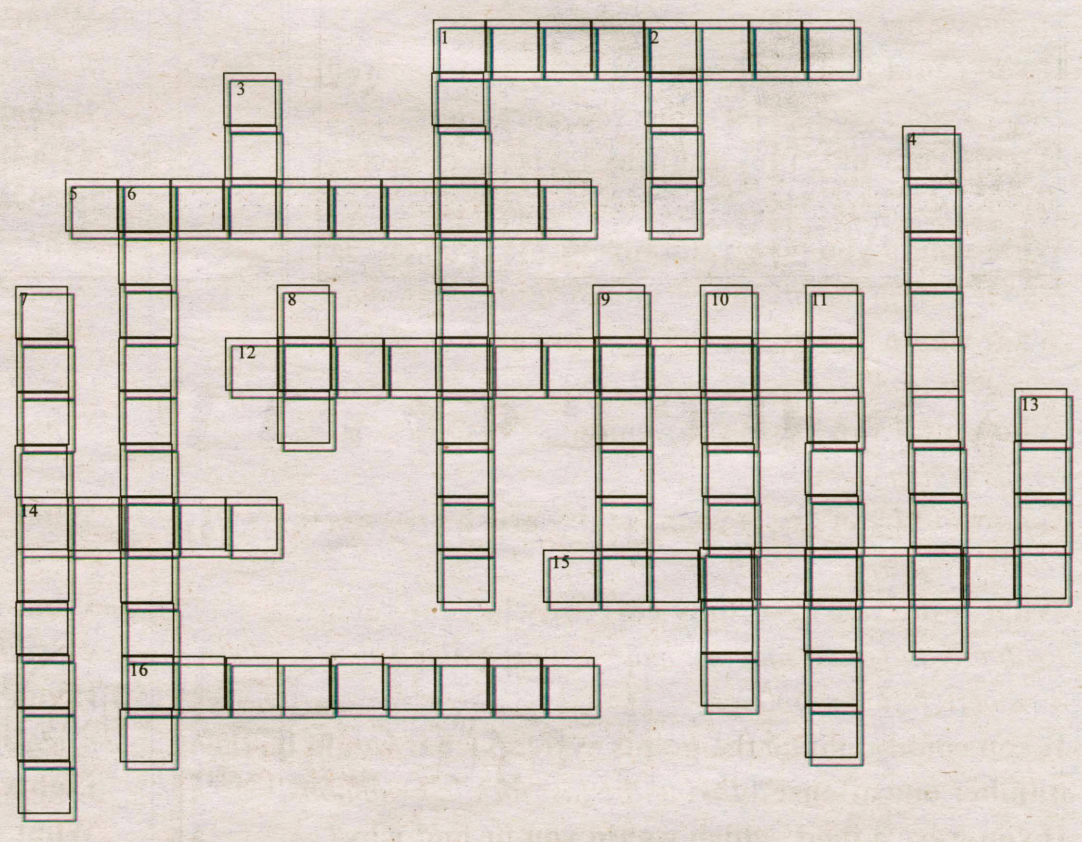
As long as you are careful to keep your hands clean, you should be fine. Norovirus often spreads when people come into contact with objects that are infected and then transmit the germs to their mouths, usually when eating. As long as you practice good hygiene, there should not be anything to worry about.

This crossword is fit for those reveling in the sunshine and happy vibes. If you're chillin' in the sun and need something fun, pick up this here crossword and try your hand. Good luck on this spring-inspired crossword.

by Cilly Geranios '19 and Molly Geisinger '19
MANAGING EDITOR AND FEATURES EDITOR

Across:
1. All decisions people make for themselves to ensure physical and mental health.
5. The days after a reading period with far too much influence over grades and GPA.
12. The final ceremony wherein degrees or diplomas are dispersed to the appropriate people.
14. Sometimes sadistically referred to as a "celebration of knowledge" learned in recent weeks or months.
15. Seven days of time during which the College celebrates the accomplishment of those ending their collegiate career.
16. The dreaded activity of most students at the end of the year before leaving for the summer.

Down:
1. The state of many collegiate students during the end of the semester. Also a popular song by Twenty One Pilots.
2. Most professors advise against this study tactic on the night before taking #14 across.
3. The three letters which determine those on Dean's List.
4. An alternative option to a final exam, these are often typed and turned into a box outside a professor's office or emailed before a deadline.
6. Paid or un-paid, many students hope to find and do these over the summer.
7. The time during which dorms are supposed to remain at a decent decible.
8. The hope for seniors graduating college.
9. The paper for which we all endure the College.
10. A verb done to information before taking #14 across.
11. Spaces in academic buildings (such as KJ)to do homework.
13. activity involving effort done to achieve purpose or result.



Answers for this week: ACROSS: 1. self care, 5. finals week, 12. commencement, 14. tests, 15. senior week, 16. packing up. DOWN: 1. stressed out, 2. cram, 3. GPA, 4. final papers, 6. internships, 7. quiet hours, 8. job, 9. degree, 10. memorize, 11. study room, 13. work.

FOOD REVIEW

Mitsuba

by Vincent Tran '18
Contributing Writer

Setting: 17 Ellinwood Drive, New Hartford, NY 13413. Does this address seem familiar? Well, if you have taken the Jitney or have gone to the Marquee Cinema, you have been close to this address a countless number of times. Mitsuba is the restaurant establishment that resides here. It is arguably one of Hamilton's better-known locations for off-campus dining. Is it all hype or is it legit?

I began my Mitsuba experience by entering the restaurant and being immediately greeted and seated by a waitress. I went for lunch, so it was relatively calm inside. The restaurant was spacious and modern with multiple seating options. On the right side of the room, there was a sushi bar. I was thinking about sitting there so that I could see the sushi chefs work their magic up close and watch a game on the flat screen TV. On the other side, there were just regular tables. I decided to sit at a table because I wanted more room. As soon as I sat down, the waitress gave me a steamed towel to clean my hands before I began looking through the menu.

The menu consisted of various types of Japanese cuisine such as udon noodles, hibachi, fried rice, and sushi. There is simply no way someone would not find something they liked. I figured I would order sushi since Mitsuba is known for it, among other restaurants in New Hartford. I asked the waitress what rolls she recommended and ended up getting three rolls; two were part of a lunch special and the other was highly recommended.

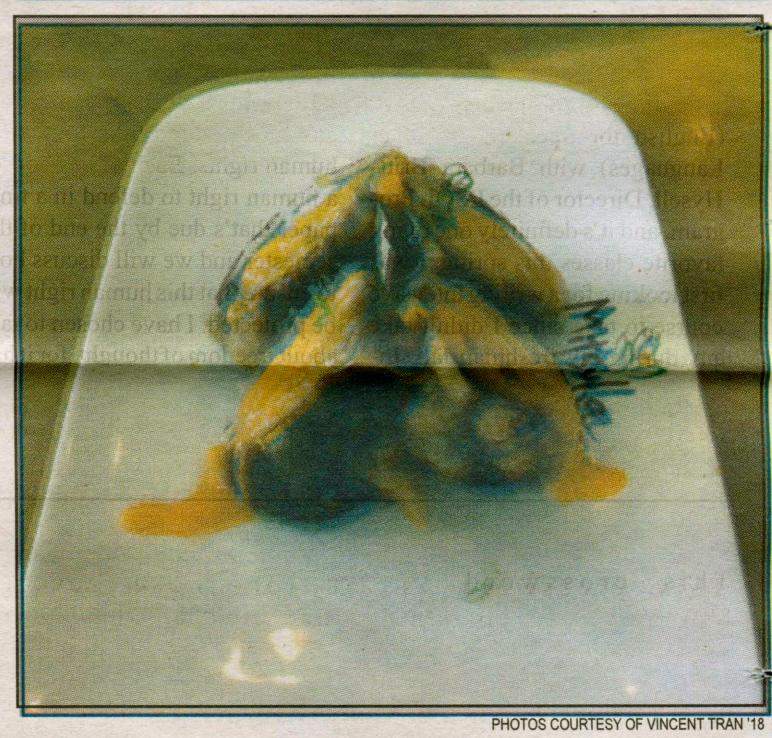
- Lunch Special (Crazy Eel Roll and Alaska Roll) ($14.99)
-New Hartford Roll ($12.00)

First Bite: Hmm, not bad for Upstate New York!

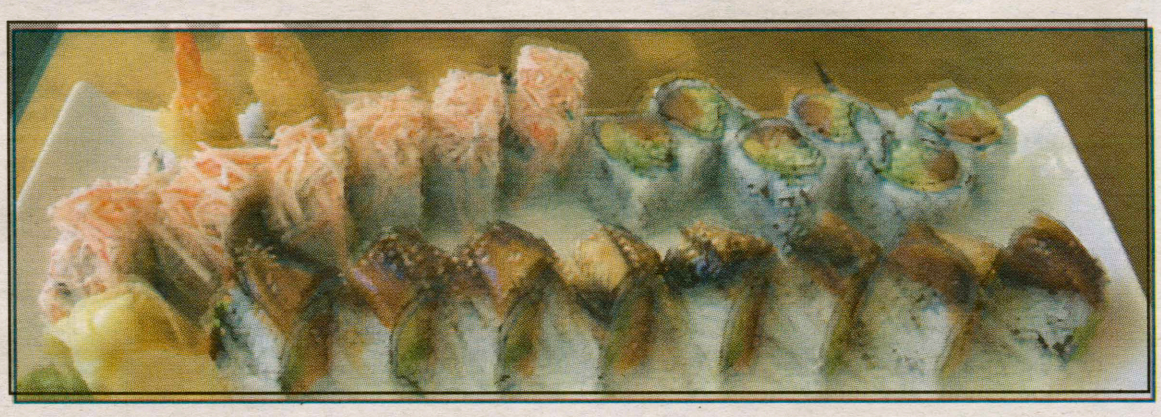
I started the meal with a hot miso soup, courtesy of the lunch special. The soup was pretty much what I expected from my other experiences eating miso soup. The seaweed and tofu in the miso broth were flavorful and they balanced the salty broth well. I also had two pieces of a Volcano Roll since every meal comes with two complimentary pieces. The Volcano Roll consists of white fish wrapped in rice and deep-fried. It tasted sweet and good, especially since it was free. The soup was a part of the lunch special that also consisted of two rolls for $14.99, which is a bargain considering that the three items (two rolls and soup) would have cost $20.00 without the deal.

The Crazy Eel Roll was spicy tuna and avocado wrapped in rice with a slice of grilled eel on top. This was arguably my favorite roll of the meal since the flavors were all in unison with one another. The sweet taste of eel was most apparent, but was balanced out with a smooth taste and texture from the avocado and spicy tuna. The Alaska Roll consisted of avocado, cucumbers, and salmon. This roll was refreshing because it contrasted well with the salty soup and the Crazy Eel Roll. The last roll I tried was a New Hartford Roll, which was fried shrimp and avocado wrapped with rice and topped with pieces of crabmeat. The roll was unique because of all the different flavors it had. I immediately tasted the shrimp and crabmeat from my first bite. Then the smooth flavor of the avocado took over.

Bottom Line: Mitsuba is legit. I would say I'm a sushi enthusiast and that Mitsuba earned my seal of approval. The price of the sushi was expensive, but it is on par with prices you would get anywhere else. They conveniently accept both cash and card. There is a lot of parking space in their plaza. Mitsuba is easily accessible by car or Jitney. However, it would take at least 30 minutes to get to Mitsuba by Jitney, so I would recommend driving 15 minutes in a car.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VINCENT TRAN '18



Specstrip

Talent search

ILLUSTRATION BY CILLY GERANIOS '19

Chink in my Armour: a Smallen Grant Presentation by Matthew Tom '20

by Bethany Vickery '20
A&E Editor

On April 19, the Kennedy Arts Center hosted the debut of *Chink in My Armour*, a multi-media art exhibit by Matthew Tom '20. Tom received a Smallen Grant to produce *Chink in My Armour*; of the sixteen grant recipients in 2017, Tom was the only member of the class of 2020. The blurb provided on the Facebook event described *Chink in My Armour* as "a visual attempt to reclaim stereotyped iconographies of East Asian culture through traditional western ideals of art and design."

The exhibit features drawings, paintings, sculptures, tapestries, and written work. The diversity of materials not only highlights Tom's versatility as an artist, but broadens the scope of his narrative.

In applying for the Smallen Grant, Tom was required to plan five or six works he hoped to include in the final exhibit, but he purposely deviated from his plans as part of the creative process. He felt that working according to a plan could hinder the organic nature of his creative process. He said would rather make each work for its own sake, rather than try to fit each piece into a predetermined mold.

One of the most striking pieces is a tapestry on the floor of the exhibit. The black and white weaving features a portrait of the artist in a sprawling position. There is a block underneath the torso in the portrait, adding depth to the presentation, which Tom explained as a reference to the idiom "sweeping something under the carpet." Too often in discussions about diversity and inclusion, Asian people's experiences are minimized or ignored.

Tom mentioned that the upcoming movie *Crazy Rich Asians* has made major waves, as it is one of the few major studio films to star a primarily Asian cast in recent memory. The film industry is riddled with stereotypical representation, and those prejudices have affected Tom on an interpersonal level as well.

On a podium between two of his drawings, Tom placed a bowl of custom-made fortune cookies. Inside the cookies are quotes of things people have said to the artist regarding his race. Rather than opening the cookie to find a comforting truism, the messages are unsavory quotes like "you'd be attractive in Korea." The messages range from insensitive to overtly rude and hurtful, and convey a powerful commentary within the existing stereotypical format of a fortune cookie.

One of the drawings in the show is called Irices, and it appears from afar as an almost pointillistic rendering of iris flowers. From close up, it becomes clear that the irises are composed of individually drawn grains of rice. The detail and precision is striking, and the initial connection to pointillism is not far off-base. Tom modeled the drawing after the brush strokes of Van Gogh's painting of irises, but used India ink rather than oil paint, and grains of rice rather than brush strokes.

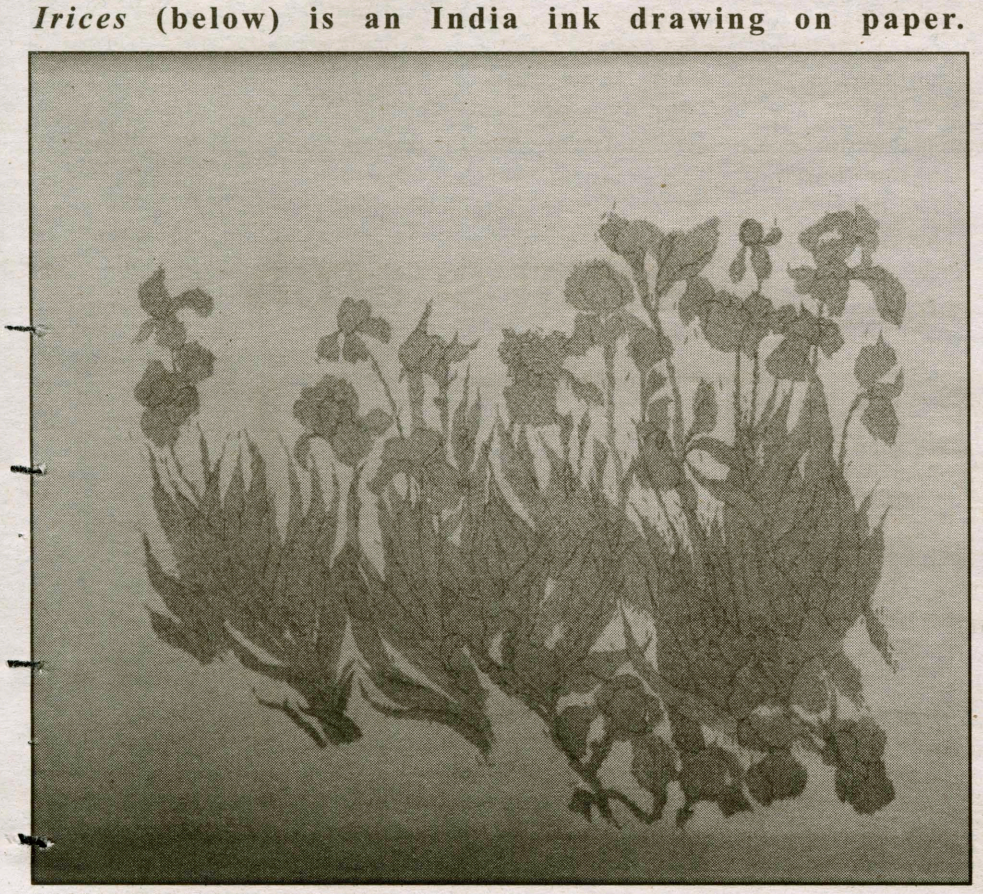
The Impressionists were heavily influenced by Japanese woodblock prints, and Tom decided to feed back that inspiration into his new work. He pointed out that usually inspiration is one-directional, and he aimed to challenge that norm with the creation of Irices. Where the Impressionists used Asian art to inspire their work, Tom drew upon Impressionist influences to create his piece using Asian materials.

One of the sculptural pieces, Rice Paddy Hat, is built from sandalwood fans. Fans are usually used to cover people's faces, but Tom broke up the wooden fans and reconfigured them into helmet-like forms. The piece directly challenges the viewer to reframe the fan from a symbol of hiding to a symbol of protection and courage. By repurposing the fans, Tom reclaimed the stereotypes and symbolism usually associated with them.

Tom intends for his show to prompt deeper dialogue on campus about stereotypes and inclusion. He also hopes his work will open the door for more non-seniors to receive funding, as he did, for projects they are passionate about.

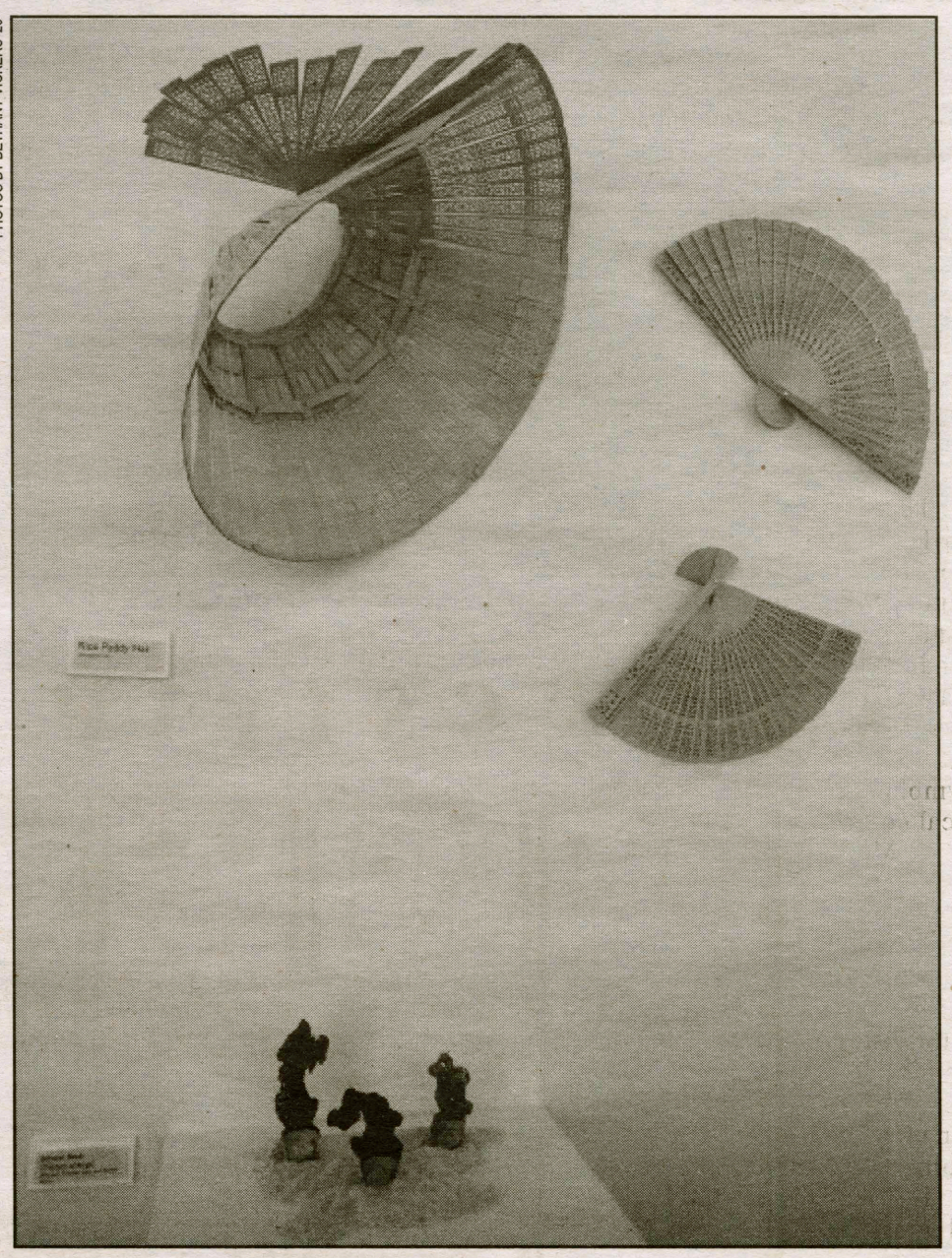
Funding, like the grant Tom received from the Smallen Fund, and exhibition space are critical for artistic development. As Tom points out, more funding and increased opportunities for student artists will increase the vitality of the College's art department.

The Steven Daniel Smallen Memorial Fund subsidizes projects that express originality and creativity. David and Ann Smallen set up the fund in 1993 to honor their son, Steve. Smallen studied at Hamilton from 1992 until 1993, when he passed away after a battle with cancer. Since 1993, the Smallen Grant has funded creative student projects like Matthew Tom's, and continues to brighten and enrich the Hamilton Community.



Woven tapestry featuring a self-portrait of the artist (above). *Irices* (below) is an India ink drawing on paper.

PHOTOS BY BETHANY VICKERS '20



Rice Paddy Hat* and *Scholar Rock (Triptych of Rings).

On the Move concludes Refugee Solidarity Month with screening of *Exodus:* A *Frontline* Documentary

by Emma Ritz '20
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PHOTO COURTESY OF ON THE MOVE

***Exodus: Our Journey to Europe* was partially filmed by refugees, who documented their perilous crossing into Europe with handheld cell phones.**

As Refugee Solidarity Month comes to an end, students at Hamilton College will be putting on two final events. On April 28 at 5:00 pm in the Kirner Johnson Auditorium, the film *Exodus: Our Journey to Europe* will be shown. It will be followed up with a question and answer session with award-winning director James Bluemel, the producer Andrew Metz '91, and Hassan Akkad, a Syrian refugee and filmmaker.

One day later, on Apr. 29, On the Move's largest event will take place. The musical group Journey West will perform at Munson William Proctor Institute, free of charge to the Hamilton community.

Exodus: Our Journey to Europe, was filmed partially by professionals, and partially by refugees who were given camera phones to document their crossing into Europe. Akkad, who will be present for the screening, is one of the refugees followed in the documentary. He was an English teacher in Syria, but was forced to leave his home after being jailed twice for peacefully protesting against the government.

Hassan made the dangerous crossing from Turkey to Greece in an overcrowded dinghy. After reaching Greece, he made his way to France and found refuge in the infamous "Calais Jungle." Using a fake passport, he managed to make it to London where he claimed asylum. Journey West seeks to embed their performance with an aura of multiculturalism, and hope to do so by blending sounds from all over the world.

Their shows typically begin with instruments and melodies from the Middle East, and then they move on to play music from Eastern Europe, Western Europe, and the US.

The group makeup itself reflects its interest in multiculturalism. They are directed by Max Buckholtz, an American, who also plays violin in the group. He has been playing since he was three and began touring at the age of ten. There are three other American-born members of the group, as well as two refugees from the Middle East. Iraqi member Imad Al Taha plays violin and has performed for the President of Dubai. He was also forced to perform for Saddam Hussain under threat of execution. After Saddam was ousted, Al Taha had to flee Iraq when religious extremists declared his music offensive.

Dara Anissi hails from Iran, but his family fled from Ayatollah Khomeini's regime shortly after his birth. He began playing guitar when he was five and plays both guitar and mandolin for the band. In addition to his work with Journey West, he also performs with a rock band influenced by culture in the Middle-East.

These acclaimed musicians and filmmakers have been invited to share their talents with the local community as the finale to Refugee Solidarity Month. April saw six different events put on by the student organization On The Move at Hamilton College. This student organization has brought several speakers to campus, and held an International Food Festival to raise money for refugees.

To get a ticket to see Journey West, email onthemov@hamilton.edu" with your name, and a seat will be reserved for you.

Masterworks Chorale performs Mozart's *Requiem*

by Josie Blatt '21
A&E EDITOR

There was a full house at Wellin Hall on Tuesday, April 24, for the Hamilton College and Community Masterworks Chorale and Symphor!a concert. Directed and conducted by G. Roberts Kolb, the Masterworks Chorale is made up of Hamilton students, faculty, alumni, and local community members. The Symphor!a Orchestra is made up of local community members.

Masterworks Chorale sings a variety of pieces from the canon of choral masterworks. Tuesday's program included Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* and *Elegischer Gesang*, and Mozart's *Requiem*. Featured soloists in all three pieces included Kathleen Puccio '15, soprano, Darcy Crum Meadows '04, mezzo-soprano, Jonathan English, tenor, and David Kolb '02, baritone.

Puccio, Meadows, and Kolb all graduated from Hamilton with degrees in music, and have gone on to have impressive careers. Puccio has studied with Lauralyn Kolb for the last five years and now lives and works in Brooklyn. After graduating from Hamilton, Meadows went on to earn a Master of Music degree in voice performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University. She has also been singing in a variety of national performances for the last fifteen years. Kolb currently lives in Utica, and has been a soloist for a wide variety of choirs and orchestras, including Masterworks Chorale, the Mohawk Valley Choral Society, and the Catskill Symphony. English has had a remarkable performing career of over 35 years. In his biography in Tuesday's program, English said: "Performing a work like Mozart's *Requiem*, with musicians you know and respect; it doesn't get much better than this."

The evening began with *Choral Fantasy* (or *Fantasia in C Minor, op. 80*). This work begins with a lengthy piano solo, which was exquisitely performed by Hamilton College Lecturer in Piano and Coordinator of Staff Pianists Sar Shalom-Strong. When Beethoven initially performed *Choral Fantasy* he improvised the piano solo, though it was eventually written into the score. After the orchestra and choir began to play and sing, the piece was elevated from elegant to jubilant, and the joy in the music shone through.

The next work, *Elegischer Gesang, op. 112*, was softer and quieter, yet equally beautiful. This work introduced the theme of death and grieving into the concert, which continued into Mozart's Requiem.

Tuesday's program explained Beethoven's inspiration for Elegischer Gesang: "Baron Johann Baptist von Pasqualati, an amateur musician and the physician of the Empress Maria Theresa, was a patron and friend of Beethoven. The baron's wife Eleanore died in childbirth in 1811. Beethoven presented Elegischer Gesang to the baron on the third anniversary of her death."

The focus of the concert was the final piece, Mozart's *Requiem*. Franz Xaver Süssmayr completed the work, as it was unfinished at the time of Mozart's death. As Tuesday's program noted: "While reality may not have been quite so dramatic as the *Amadeus* [a popular 1984 film] Mozart dictating the work on his deathbed to Antonio Salieri, we do know that on December 4, 1791, Mozart, bedridden since November 20, felt well enough to stage a rehearsal of completed portions of the Requiem."

One highlight of the Requiem was the "Rex Tremendae" movement. Its intensity brought an immense amount of energy to the audience. Another highlight was the final movement, "Communion: Lux Aeterna." Puccio's soprano solo at the start of movement was enchanting and the choir and orchestra reflected Puccio's enchanting tone.

Overall, the robust sound of the Chorale and Symphor!a was a joy to listen to. At the end of the concert, many audience members gave the Masterworks Chorale and Symphor!a Orchestra a much-deserved standing ovation.

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On the Move presents: Exodus

The producer (Andrew Metz '91), award winning director (James Bluemel) and Hassan Akkad (who is a Syrian refugee who is featured in the film) will be joining us after the showing for an exclusive Q&A session.

This event is part of the Refugee Solidarity Month. We hope to see you at the screening on Saturday.

The scenes are unforgettable. Men, women and children packed onto dinghies. Families huddled together as they fight the waves of the Mediterranean, then the roads of Europe.

In 2015, wars, insurgencies and crushing poverty drove the largest migration of people that Europe had seen since World War II, precipitating an ongoing crisis.

As this exodus began to reach crisis levels - Syrians were joined by refugees and migrants from the Middle East, Asia and Africa – filmmaker James Bluemel and his team embarked on an ambitious effort to tell these extraordinary stories in the most intimate and epic way.

Bluemel traveled around the world finding refugees and migrants just setting out, and then spent a year following them across 26 countries, all the way to their final destinations.

The result was Exodus, a special, two-hour FRONTLINE, told by the refugees and migrants themselves, and drawing on footage they shot along the way – from inside a sinking dinghy, to the Sahara Desert, to the tents and fires inside Calais's notorious "Jungle" camp.

Through its harrowing access and intimacy, Exodus gets inside this global crisis unlike most other coverage, exposing a shadow-world of human traffickers, how countries are handling the influx of people, and the challenges and choices these refugees and migrants face every day.

The film focuses on five main characters: Hassan, an English teacher from Damascus, Syria; Isra'a, a young girl from Aleppo; Ahmad, who worries about his wife and daughter who stayed behind in Syria; Alaigie, a Gambian man who dreams of lifting his family out of poverty; and Sadiq, who fled Afghanistan to escape the Taliban.

Softball shows potential in first season under new head coach

*from **Softball**, page 16*

would clinch a playoff spot regardless of other scenarios. Regarding games beyond Hamilton's control, the best case scenario for the Continentals would be for Amherst to beat Wesleyan in their matchup and then for Middlebury to sweep the Cardinals. Hamilton would just have to win one game this weekend to secure the fourth seed in the West division. If Wesleyan falls to Amherst but sweeps Middlebury, Hamilton would have to take two of three to qualify. If Amherst wins on Wednesday and Wesleyan takes two of three, Hamilton must sweep, and if Amherst wins and Middlebury takes two of three, Hamilton must win two of three as well. If Wesleyan beats Amherst, Hamilton would have to win two of three and hope either Wesleyan or Middlebury sweeps or, if Middlebury and Wesleyan split, Hamilton would have to sweep.

While uncertainty abounds, Hamilton can clinch a playoff spot with a sweep, regardless of other results; thus, the Continentals are focusing on what they can control: beating Amherst. Sweeping Amherst is no small task, as the Mammoths have lost just one of eight NESCAC matchups and boast a 23-5 overall record. They are ranked twelvth in the country in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Coaches Poll and hold the top spot in the New England regional rankings.

In order to beat Amherst and qualify for the playoffs, Hamilton will need contributions from up and down the lineup. Caitlin Berreitter '20 leads the Continentals at the plate with a .396 Batting Average (BA), a .491 On Base Percentage (OBP), a .583 Slugging Percentage (SLG), and 30 runs scored. Emily Fraser '20 leads Hamilton with 22 Runs Batted In (RBIs) and boasts an impressive slash line herself (.324 BA/ .330 OBP/ .471 SLG). Liz Brautigam '19, Helen Lin '19, and Kendall Searcy '20 are also key contributors on offense sporting (.314/.347/.396), (.261/.309/.375), and (.295/.343/.379) slash lines respectively.

Four pitchers have made appearances for Hamilton this season: Zoe Singer '18, Desmen DePaulis '19, Molly Leitner '19, and Claire O'Brien '21. DePaulis leads Hamilton in appearances (18) and innings pitched (71 ⅔). DePaulis sports a 4.59 Earned Run Average (ERA), the best on the team. O'Brien has started the most games (12) and leads Hamilton in complete games (4) and strikeouts (34). Singer and Leitner have been effective, pitching the remainder of the innings.

To qualify for the playoffs, Hamilton must win at the very least one game this weekend and most likely at least two, while a sweep would guarantee a playoff berth. To beat the powerful Mammoths, Hamilton must dial it in and play its best softball of the season. They have shown the ability to compete with the best teams, most notably in a 4-2 victory over then- #14 and defending NESCAC champion, Williams. A playoff berth would be a big step for this program and a great accomplishment for Coach Refsnyder in her first season. Hamilton softball appears to be on the upswing, and a series victory over a top-team like Amherst, as well as a playoff berth, would confirm that Hamilton softball can no longer be overlooked.

PHOTO BY KAJA BIELECKA '21

Molly Leitner '19 has struck out 10 batters this season.

Men's golf prepares for NESCAC Championships at Connecticut College

*from **Golf**, page 16*

record and earn half a point for Hamilton. As a team, however, the Continentals finished with only 1.5 points to Trinity's 7.5, a stark loss to one of the nation's best golf teams.

On April 14, the men rebounded to defeat SUNY Delhi at another two-team match. Tigani finished in first with a 74, closely followed by Andrew Watson '19 shooting a 75 to place second. Bobby Osborn '20 shot a 77, tying for third with Delhi's Alex Fischer. The Continentals finished with a team score of 306, beating Delhi's score of 316.

Last Saturday and Sunday, April 21 and 22, the men competed in the Williams Spring Invitational in a NESCAC preview meet, going up against Trinity, Middlebury, Williams, Amherst, Bowdoin, Bates, and Wesleyan. Tigani once again led the Continentals, tying for second place with a 76 on Saturday and a 74 on Sunday. Bobby Osborn followed, tying for 13th place with a 75 on Saturday and 81 on Sunday. Watson and Nick Randolph '21 tied for 21st place, each scoring an 80 and 81, though on different days. Hamilton's team score for both days was 628, earning them 4th place out of the 8 teams, a great sign for this weekend's NESCAC Championship in Newington, Connecticut.

Both teams have golfed relatively few matches this season compared to the fall season, as the spring season in New York simply isn't conducive to golfing weather. Now that it's warm at last only two weeks remain in the semester. As the short spring season comes to a close, the team can look forward to a summer of training for next year's fall season, when most of the men's team and all of the women's team will return. Unfortunately, top shooter Tigani and Nate Kramer '18 will graduate this spring, but men's returning stars Benjamin, Cesare, Osborne, Randolph, and Watson will be sure to carry the team to success.

On the women's side, no players will graduate this spring, and potentially all six women could make their triumphant returns next year: a Archos, Celia Lau '21, McClanahan, Wanikpun, Warner, and Gabrielle Wierda.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @HAMILTONCGOLF

Sophia Archos '21 blasts a drive down the fairway on a gorgeous day.

NHL Playoff Guide: finding you the right bandwagon to pursue Lord Stanley

by Patrick Malin '18
Sports Editor

After a humiliating 5-0 defeat on Apr. 20, the Minnesota Wild were eliminated from the 2018 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs. As a native of "The State of Hockey," the Wild's loss has left me not only heart-broken but also without a clear rooting interest in the NHL postseason. To prepare fans who similarly may have lost their favorite team and are looking to adopt one of the remaining nine teams as their own, I have created a comprehensive rooting guide for the teams battling for Lord Stanley. A fan of underdog stories? Always preferred arctic or aquatic mascots? Impressed by super Swedes and fantastic Finns? The Spec Sports Official NHL Playoff Rooting Guide has everything you need to help you hop onto your new bandwagon.

Boston Bruins— The late additions of Rick Nash and rookie/Olympic hero Ryan Donato to an already talented roster propelled the Bruins to a 50-20-12 record, good enough for second place in the Atlantic division. The Bruins are the perfect contrarian's team: they are taking on the pride of Canada in the first round, their roster is populated with some of the most unlikable players in the league, Brad Marchand and Patrice Bergeron, and they won a cup in 2011. Support the Bruins if you are from "just outside Boston" or if you found yourselves rooting for Tom Brady to go back to back against Nick Foles and the city of Philadelphia.

Toronto Maple Leafs— It's hard not to love the Maple Leafs, particularly after the unity demonstrated during the Canadian National Anthem at the Air Canada Centre following the horrific attack that left 10 dead in Toronto on Apr. 23. As a former inhabitant of Oakville, Ontario, I certainly felt goosebumps as the city came together in the face of tragedy. On the ice, the Leafs are a similarly heart-warming squad. Young American star Auston Matthews scored 32 goals for the Leafs in a season plagued by nagging injuries, while Canadian second line center Mitch Marner proved he had the talent to compete at the highest level with a team high 69 regular season points. It will take a miracle (and a Game 7 win over Boston) for the Leafs to win their first Stanley Cup since 1967, but the hockey community is rallying its support behind head coach Mike Babcock's boys and are open to recruiting new faces to the bandwagon. From the cellar of the Eastern Conference just a few short years ago, the Leafs look primed to be serious contenders for the next decade. This postseason provides a great opportunity for the probable bandwagon pick for years to come.

Nashville Predators— The team with the best regular season record in the NHL this season suffered a few setbacks in the opening round against the feisty Colorado Avalanche. The Predators have one of the deepest rosters in the league, with both attacking and defensive talent present on the ice at all times. In the virality department, winger Filip Forsberg has already supplied the two best goals of the playoffs so far. Forsberg's game one through-the-legs (both his own and the defender's) goal will go down as one of the greatest goals of the season. The spectacular personality (and defensive strength) of P.K. Subban adds "must-watch" intrigue to the match-up with the Winnipeg Jets, as does the possibility of a fashionable catfish plopping on the ice after the opening goal of each home game. The city of Nashville officially caught hockey fever during last year's playoff run, and the Preds look like a promising selection to return to the finals again in 2018. If you like watching stellar Scandinavians tear apart the NHL's most talented rosters with excellent teamwork and hard-nosed defense, the Preds are a great pick for fandom this spring.

Winnipeg Jets— Coming off a dominant performance over the Wild, the Jets proved they belong in the contender conversation in this year's playoff hunt. The first forward line consisting of Mark Scheifele (team-leading four playoff goals), Kyle Connor, and Blake Wheeler has been operating on all cylinders, and Dustin Byfuglien's physicality was the difference maker in round one. Twenty year old Finnish superstar Patrik Laine has disrupted defensive schemes all season, and will present a nearly insurmountable task for Nashville's backline. Connor Hellebuyck is the favorite to take home the Veznia Trophy honoring the NHL's best goaltender, but his playoff experience only spans five starts. The Jets enjoy one of, if not the best home-ice advantages in the NHL, with the Bell MTS Place serving as Manitoba's premier sports venue. This will be the Jets' first time in the conference semi-finals since the team returned to Winnipeg from Atlanta during the 2013 season, and the energy will be electric against one of the league's top teams. A fun, energetic, wildly inexperienced, and gritty team, the Jets will likely fall short of their cup ambitions, but the ride through the postseason will be immensely intriguing and festive for all the team's supporters.

San Jose Sharks— The Sharks may not carry the clout of the Penguins, the excitement of the young Leafs, or the loyalty of the Capitals, but San Jose has a lot to prove against America's adopted team (the Vegas Golden Knights). The Sharks have the oldest average roster remaining in the playoffs, with NHL legends Brent Burns, Joe Thorton, Joe Pavelski, and Logan Couture leading the experienced squad to a clean 4-0 sweep of the Anaheim Ducks in round one. Mid-season acquisition Evander Kane has provided much needed burst to the first line forwards, which has moved Czech prodigy Tomas Hertl to a more fitting scoring role on the second line. The Sharks are comparable to the San Antonio Spurs (before Tim Duncan's retirement) or the Cleveland Indians, who rely on veterans who fly under the radar before executing lethal blows to opponents come the postseason. For those who love sunshine, beaches, slapshots, ridiculous facial hair, and oldies but goodies, the Sharks are your team.

Vegas Golden Knights— The Golden Knights are officially the casual hockey fan's favorite NHL story. This time last year, Vegas had a total of zero players on its roster. Almost no NHL pundits gave the Golden Knights any chance to make the playoffs at the beginning of the season, and those same "experts" said

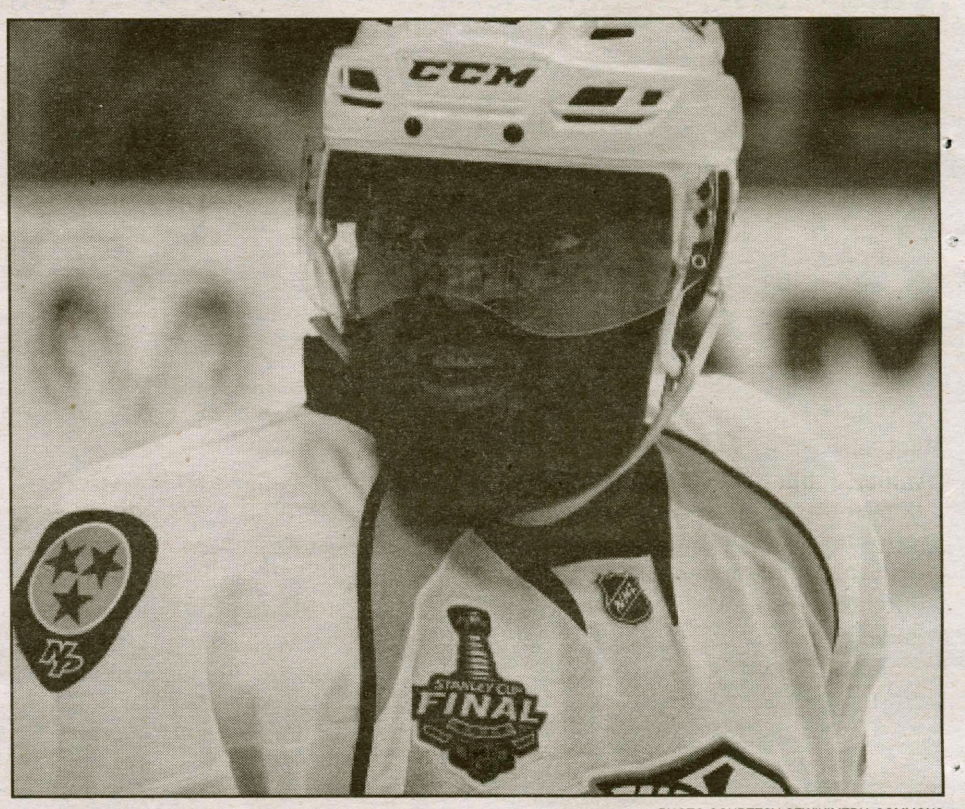

PHOTO COURTESY OFWIKIMEDIA COMMONS

P.K. Subban hopes to lead the Predators to their first Stanley Cup.

the team's early season success was absolutely unsustainable. Vegas has proved everyone wrong, and now sit as the favorites to match-up with the Predators for a trip to the Stanley Cup Final on the line. William Karlsson had a breakout year in Vegas, putting up a team-leading 78 points. Future NHL Hall of Famers "The Real Deal" James Neal and Marc-Andre Fleury have brought years of Stanley Cup experience to the ice in Vegas, while former Wild prospects Alex Tuch and Erik Haula have added to the Golden Knights' potent scoring attack. A first round sweep over the Los Angeles Kings solidified Vegas as a contender for Lord Stanley, and galvanized the population in support of the NHL's newest team. The underdogs, the new kids on the block, the overperformers, the unprotected, the unwanted. Vegas may just be the team of destiny in 2018.

Tampa Bay Lightning— The Eastern Conference's best team cruised past the New Jersey Devils in round one, taking the first step to returning the Stanley Cup to the Southeastern tip of the United States for the first time since 2004. Nikita Kucherov's 100-point season paced the Lightning in 2017/18 on offense, while Andrei Vasilevskiy anchored Tampa Bay from between the pipes. Centers Steven Stamkos and Brayden Point also had tremendous regular seasons that have carried over into the playoffs. In just five games against the Devils, Kucherov scored five goals and tallied five assists. Regardless of second round opponent, it is tough to argue that Kucherov will not be the single most dominant player in the series. The cohesion of the team must match Kucherov's talent for the Lightning to prevail in the Stanley Cup Final. Think LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers for a comparison to the Lightning, without the worldwide profile associated with basketball's G.O.A.T.

Pittsburgh Penguins— If the Lightning are the Cavaliers, then the Penguins are very much the Golden State Warriors. They have the undisputed most talented overall roster in the league with the two most potent offensive weapons in Evgeni Malkin and Sidney Crosby. The injury concerns of Malkin and Carl Hagelin present a serious problem for the Penguins, but if Jake Guentzel is able to carry the momentum from round one into the rest of the postseason, the consequences of these absences will be minimized. Three of the four victories over Philadelphia were absolute blowouts, but giving up five-plus goals will not be permissible against the surging Capitals. Just like the Warriors, the cracks are starting to appear in the armor following three years of remarkable success for Mike Sullivan's roster. The bitter Caps-Pens rivalry has gone in favor of the Penguins for years. It may be time for a changing of the guard in the Eastern Conference. No NHL team has won three-consecutive Stanley Cups since 1983, but with a standard exceptional playoff performance from Sid the Kid, anything is possible for the team from the Rust Belt with a dream.

Washington Capitals— Is it the Caps' year? It could be. After what looked to be yet another disastrous postseason appearance following two overtime losses to the Columbus Blue Jackets, the Capitals rallied in two overtimes in game three to regain momentum and win four straight games to advance to yet another postseason matchup with the Penguins. As usual, the Capitals topped the Penguins in the regular season, capturing the Metropolitan Division's best record. However, this year feels different (to be fair, this sentence has been written hundreds of times about this team). On the offensive side, the Capitals are loaded from first to fourth line, led by Alex Ovechkin, Evgeny Kuznetsov, T.J. Oshie, Nicklas Backstrom, and Devante Smith-Pelly. Defenseman John Carlson has been superb in the playoffs, with a team-high nine points, while Holtby's goalkeeping has saved the Caps from elimination. To further the NBA analogy, Washington is similar to the Toronto Raptors in that they always see immense regular season success but year after year fall to the same superior team (LeBron's). If you're a fan of reversing historical trends, or simply want the current kings dethroned, congratulations, the Capitals are your team. It's your year. Probably not. But maybe.

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
April 26, 2018

Men's and women's golf teams open spring season with solid performances

by Cliff Musial '21
Staff Writer

The Hamilton Men's and Women's golf teams have started off their spring campaigns with great performances throughout March and April. Both teams began their seasons with a trip to Florida over Spring Break to compete in their first matches of the year, against Trinity College for the men, and Mount Holyoke and Vassar College for the women.

After shooting 79 at the NESCAC championships last fall, Winda Wanikpun '20 was already back on her game early in the season. Wanikpun led the Continentals and won the round on March 16 with a score of 78. She was followed by Sophia Archos '21, shooting an 89, Anne McClanahan, shooting a 95, Libbie Warner '19, shooting a 100, and Gabrielle Wierda '21, shooting a 101. With a team score of 362, Hamilton captured second place, just behind Vassar's score of 356 and ahead of Mount Holyoke's 384..

Last Sunday, April 22, the women returned to competition at the Ithaca Invitational, where they placed 3rd out of 10 teams on the par-72 Ithaca Country Club course. Warner led the Continentals, shooting an 81 and securing a second-place spot. Wanikpun came in one stroke behind her, tying for fifth place with an 82. McClanahan came next, tying for 17th with a 89, followed by Wierda, tying for 25th with a 93, and Archos, tying for 29th with a 94. Hamilton's team score was 345, putting them in third place — only behind SUNY Cortland and Ithaca College. Sunday's performance set the team up for their third meet of the season this weekend at the Williams Spring Invitational.

The men also started their season in Florida in match play against Trinity College at John's Island Club West Course. Match play is an uncommon form of golf scoring that determines team scores based on which player completes holes in fewer strokes, rather than basing the score on the strokes themselves. The men's team had come out of a 5th place finish in the fall NESCAC Championship qualifier, where Joe Tigani '18 and Jeremy Benjamin '19 qualified as individuals for the championship. Ripani came back strong on March 16 against Trinity, winning the 18th hole to beat Will Rosenfield of Trinity to earn one point for Hamilton, and Matt Cesare '20 won the 16th, 17th, and 18th to tie his match

*see **Golf**, page 14*

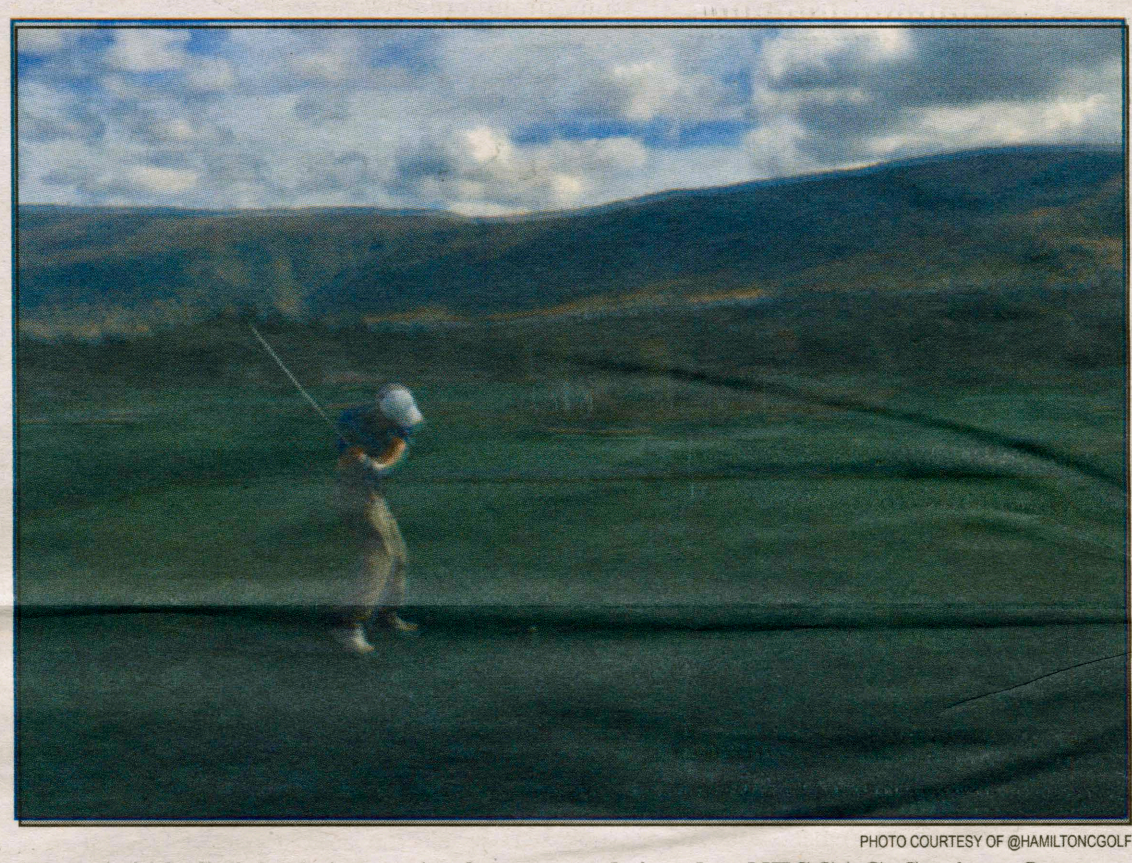

PHOTO COURTESY OF @HAMILTONCGOLF

Tigani '18 finished in a tie for second in the NESCAC Spring Opener.

Softball alive in playoff race entering season's final weekend

by Levi Lorenzo '19
Sports Editor

Last weekend was grueling for the Hamilton softball team. The Continentals split a doubleheader with Skidmore on Wednesday, April 18, then traveled to Wesleyan to play three games against the Cardinals — one Friday and two Saturday. Hamilton took one out of three from Wesleyan then traveled to Williams to play a makeup game against Middlebury on Sunday. The final matchup was a battle — one that Hamilton lost 2-1 in eight innings. The team has three games remaining: they host Amherst this weekend with a 5:00 contest against the Mammoths on Friday and a doubleheader on Saturday commencing at noon.

The Continentals have experienced ups and downs this season, their first under head coach Kate Refsnyder. Nevertheless, Hamilton has matched both its overall and conference win total from last season (eleven and two, respectively) and has three games remaining to improve both records. In fact, despite the ups and downs, the team has a very real chance to make the NESCAC playoffs for the first time ever. The NESCAC changed the playoff structure before the season, expanding the playoffs from four teams to eight and switching to single elimination from double elimination. Now, the top four teams in each division qualify for the playoffs, which will be held the weekend of May 4-6. Hamilton currently sits in the fifth spot in the NESCAC West division, with a 2-7 conference record, but is within striking distance of fourth-place Wesleyan, who sits at 2-6, and third-place Middlebury, who boast a 3-6 record. Williams has finished their NESCAC schedule and has clinched a playoff spot with a 9-3 record. Amherst currently sits in first with a 7-1 record.

Amherst and Wesleyan meet in Amherst, MA, on Wednesday, April 25 to play a make-up game. The final games of the NESCAC regular season will be played this weekend, with Hamilton taking on Amherst in a three game set and Middlebury hosting Wesleyan. At the very least, the Continentals must win one game this weekend in order to have a chance at the playoffs. If the Mammoths sweep Hamilton this weekend, Hamilton will not qualify for the playoffs. Hamilton does control its destiny, however: a sweep of Amherst

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Hamilton softball has matched its' win total from 2017 with three games left to play.